Wow, one month from now you all will be in a van heading west for a great adventure. We are so excited for this experience, for each of you as well as for Calvin as a whole. We think it is going to be an awesome semester, a bit different, but one that is rich in so many ways. This edition of The Bridge addresses:

- what books to purchase for classes
- what to pack
- where to be, and when, during orientation, and
- how to prepare for the upcoming semester.

After reading this edition of The Bridge, please let us know if you have any other questions or concerns. Email: bhaney@calvin.edu

**Books for the semester:** The bad news: you will need to purchase books for the semester; the good news: your books will be substantially cheaper than if you were on-campus. We would recommend you purchase your books soon. You must purchase the STNM 218 coursepack when you arrive on campus; other books are available in the campus store, as indicated. All of the books are available on-line as new or used paperbacks or as e-books (see note after each book). ebooks are perfectly acceptable, Kindle editions can be read on computers and other devices.

**STNM 151:** Geology
- The geology book is being provided for you.

**STNM 218:** Peoples and Cultures of the Southwest
- Course reading packet available only in the campus book store.
- Other readings TBA
- Garroutte, Eva Marie. *Real Indians*

**STNM 140:** Special Topics: Outdoor Pursuits
- All reading will be provided

**STNM 149:** Prime Kingdom Citizenship
- All reading will be on-line on the course website.

**STNM 150:** Developing a Christian Mind: Learning from the Stranger
- Lane, Patty. *A beginner's guide to crossing cultures*
- Plantinga, Cornelius. *Engaging God's World* (available in the campus bookstore)
- Smith, David. *Learning from the Stranger* (available in the campus bookstore)
Connecting to life back at Calvin – Orientation – Where to be when . . .

When you arrive for Quest (Orientation) or Passport III, go to the front desk at Bolt-Heyns-Timmer dorm to get your keys. On Wednesday night you will find your orientation group (you are all together in a group of about 25 students). You will follow the same orientation schedule as all incoming students. This includes Streetfest, orientation sections, and social functions. Wednesday night Don and Becky will be around at the picnic and will also meet with you later that night to answer questions, facilitate orientation, and generally welcome you to campus. Sunday morning you will have breakfast at Don’s house and worship together before leaving for your first stop on the road trip.

Packing List:

See the next page for general packing instructions. In addition to these guidelines please remember the following:

You will be gone for 3 months and for three seasons (summer, fall, and the beginning of winter). Gallup is in the high desert meaning you will get lots of sun but it will be very cold once the sun goes down. Average temperatures for Gallup, NM can be found by clicking [here].

Please plan on packing in 2 suitcases (or less). We should be able to pack everything in the vans when we head down to NM so no need to send anything to NM. Remember you will have laundry facilities available to you at Rehoboth.

You will be doing some camping throughout the semester. So please bring the following:

- Hiking shoes – could use tennis shoes but might want something with more support. You don’t need heavy duty boots unless you prefer them.
- Sleeping bag and sleeping mat (this is in addition to your two suitcases)
- Headlamp or flashlight.
- Water bottle
- Sunscreen (available there)
- Headwear: think about bringing a baseball cap for sun protection and a winter hat (fleece) for warmth. One bandana – very useful for many purposes.

For in the dorm, you might consider:

- Towel and toiletry bag
- Sheets (blankets and pillow will be provided).
- Alarm clock or you can use your phone or computer.

Electronics: We want you to be intentional about your use of technology but at the same time the following devices might be useful:

- Laptop or tablet (we will provide a printer for printing papers, etc.)
- Phone, ipod, or MP3 player.
- Camera

You can review the types of adventures you should prepare for in the list of field trips described [here]. In general, any equipment you would need, including bicycles, climbing harnesses, helmets, etc., will be provided.
Packing Tips for Studying Off-Campus

**What to bring…**

- If you wear glasses, bring an extra pair.

- Carry all medications with you; make sure all medications are in their original, labeled containers. Bring copies of your prescriptions and the generic names for the drugs. If possible carry a letter from your doctor attesting to your need to take the drug.

- Take clothes that will help you blend in to the place you are staying. Avoid dressing in a way that could mark you as an affluent tourist. Dress conservatively throughout your stay. Consider the weather and bring clothes that are easily layered for various climate conditions, do not need ironing, dry quickly, and are comfortable and durable. Most importantly make sure that all of your clothes are interchangeable, i.e. any of your shirts can go with any of your skirts/pants, etc.

- Take clothes that you can layer to help moderate your temperature – keep you warm at night and cooler during the day. Generally think in terms of a base layer (against the skin – e.g. long underwear), insulating layer (e.g. fleece jacket), and a shell layer (for wind and rain – e.g. light jacket).

- You will need one dressier outfit for church (casual pants and blouse and sweater).

- Travel light. Limit yourself to essentials. Remember you need less than you think you do and that you can always get additional clothes and supplies there.

- Bring gloves, scarves, and a pair or two of wool socks.

- There is a gym on campus so bring fitness clothes and a bathing suit. Remember you can always drive down the mountain and find warm weather.

**What to leave behind…**

- Valuable or expensive jewelry (just leave all jewelry at home as even inexpensive jewelry can attract unwanted attention).

- All unnecessary things in your wallet – library card, extra credit cards, social security card, and similar items.

- Camping group gear as this will be provided (e.g. tents, cookware, stoves, utensils, etc.)

**As you pack, remember…**

Most people say that you should pack light, but that doesn’t go far enough. Bring only one bag, and bring it half-full. Not only should your pack be half-full, but you should be half-full as you come to another country to “fill up.” Half-full means that by going to another country, you will inevitably fill up as you learn about yourself, your new friends, their culture, & your home in the US.

A half-full student is a wise student, who comes to learn, not expecting what they already have at home. A half-full student is someone who comes to another country to experience that culture for what it is, not for what it lacks.

You’re not going to Asia or Africa or Europe [or New Mexico] to experience the same life you have at home, with washing and drying machines, fast food, cell phones, and picket fences, right? You’re going abroad to learn as much as you can—to fill up your pack, if you will—and to return with much more than you had before.

Steve Hanna

*He (or she) who would travel happily must travel light.* Antoine de St. Exupery